

Amendments to the Claims:

The following is a complete set of claims pending in this patent application, replacing all prior versions:

- 1 Claim 1 (currently amended): A catalyst bed for decomposition of monopropellant fuel using a
2 transition ~~transitional~~ metal catalyst over which the fuel is made to flow, the bed comprising:
3 a plurality of thin metal plates in a stacked contiguous relation, ~~/~~ each such plate having a
4 surface of catalytic material and a plurality of flow-through holes of selected size and
5 location for flow of said fuel axially through said stacked plates, said flow-through holes
6 being axially offset from plate to plate to promote lateral flow of said fuel between adjacent
7 plates, at least a portion of each such plate on a downstream side being etched to direct said
8 permit lateral flow in all directions of said fuel between said plates flow-through holes of
9 adjacent plates.
- 1 Claim 2 (original): The catalyst bed recited in claim 1 wherein said plurality of plates comprises
2 a plurality of groups of said plates, each said group being separated by a metering plate having
3 flow-through holes that provide reduced open area compared to the flow-through holes of said
4 adjacent groups of said plates.
- 1 Claim 3 (original): The catalyst bed recited in claim 2 wherein each said metering plate which
2 is positioned more downstream of an upstream metering plate comprises larger flow-through
3 holes than said upstream metering plate.
- 1 Claim 4 (canceled)
- 1 Claim 5 (original): The catalyst bed recited in claim 1 wherein said etched downstream side of
2 each said plate comprises unetched portions forming support columns for supporting each said
3 plate on an adjacent said plate.